

by Arabell Lee Hafner

SARAH M. MAYFIELD

Sarah M. Mayfield was a widow with one child. She married Louis Rice Chaffine December 3, 1837, and eight children were born to them. They came to Utah and settled in Cedar City in 1861. They were called to the Muddy in 1867, where he had the first cotton gin in St. Joseph. In 1868 two boys roasting potatoes in a bonfire in back of the Miles home started a blaze which destroyed nineteen homes, the cotton gin and the school house.

—D.U.P. files

JOSEPH S. MURDOCK AND
ELIZABETH HUNTER MUDOCK

Joseph and Elizabeth Hunter Murdock were married in 1854. In 1867 they, with fifty other families, were called to the Muddy Mission. One time, after their arrival, when the father was away from home the boys were sent to break up land some distance away. Their plows and harnesses broke as the land was hard and untillable. After several days they decided to go home; they reached their mother's best friend's house and persuaded her to go home with them. This was truly an answer to the mother's prayer, for that night she had a baby boy born to her and would have been alone.

It was a trial for Elizabeth to feed her family on coarse food, and one night as she mixed the bran bread she couldn't keep back the tears that fell into the mixing pan. It was a bright moonlight night and when she stepped outside heaven seemed very near. She prayed earnestly that they might get better food. At three in the morning a wagon stopped and a man came to the house asking to buy some hay and grain for his horses. Because of the heat he had driven at night. After giving him the feed, Joseph said, "It seems like you are loaded very heavy for these sandy roads. What are you hauling?" He answered, "White flour; you can have all you want for what it cost me." So Joseph and Elizabeth were soon stacking flour in and the next morning they and their friends had real bisquits for breakfast. Elizabeth knew her prayer had been answered.

The desert was a hard place to colonize. Cotton could be raised, lucerne and other sturdy crops, but they were given permission to leave when it was decided the valley was in Nevada. When they left the home, Elizabeth looked back and could see smoke rising from the house. Alva admitted touching a match to it so they couldn't go back. He wanted to go where schools were, and people, and where his mother wouldn't have to work so hard.

—by Ida Kirkham—from D.U.P. book